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Monday 4th January 2021

Dear Parents and Carers,

Following the Prime Minister's announcement this evening, the Government is asking schools to close for most children, and to strongly limit the number of children who are attending, in a bid to help prevent this virus from spreading further. Schools are being asked to remain open for a small number of children and there are strict parameters around children who we will be opening our doors to tomorrow. The vast majority of children will remain at home.

Firstly, if a child has an Education Health Care Plan, we are being asked to consider if that child needs to attend school. Some children with EHCPs have very particular needs and parents might require these children to attend school to have these needs met. In this instance they may attend school from tomorrow morning.

Secondly, as a school, we have a duty to continue to safeguard our children and families. Where there are some families or children with particular vulnerabilities, we will speak with them tomorrow to confirm that they can attend from Wednesday.

We also have a duty to help to ensure that parents who are critical workers are still able to attend work. Critical workers have been defined by the Government as those in the workforce who are essential in the fight against COVID-19. As you are aware from the letter sent earlier today we will be sending a survey link tomorrow and ask you to please complete this by 3pm if you meet the criteria. In the interim, critical worker children may attend tomorrow at their usual time, however, we will be having personal 1:1 conversations with critical worker parents to ascertain the need for children to attend once you have completed the survey. I specify the word 'need'; this may impact whether your child will be able to attend from Wednesday onwards.

The Government has also made it clear, however, that where children can be safely cared for at home and other arrangements made, this must be the case. Although one parent may be a critical worker, if the other parent isn't and can look after the child, therefore preventing having more children in school and risking the virus spreading at school, they need to stay at home.

School will now be moving into blended learning which means the children who will be attending school and those accessing learning remotely will have the same opportunities. Heads of Year will be sending newsletters detailing the expectations for children moving forwards. Children at home tomorrow should access work set on EducationCity classwork and homework and Purple Mash 2Do's.

As a staff, we wish you and your families well over the next few weeks. If there is anything that you feel we can do to support you please don't hesitate to contact me. I will be available every school day, should you need to talk to me at all, and you'll be able to get hold of me via the school office.

Stay safe, look after yourselves and each other and we will look forward to seeing you all again soon.

Kind regards,

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Alison M. Story-Scrivens". The signature is written in a cursive style.

Mrs Alison M. Story-Scrivens
Headteacher